

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the present amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-41 remain pending in this case, with claims 1, 14, 24, 34 and 41 being independent claims, claims 1-13 having been allowed and claim 27 having been indicated as having allowable subject matter, and with claims 14-23, 26, 28 and 34-41 having been withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction requirement. Because no amendments to the claims are proposed, it is believed that no additional fees are due for the consideration of this paper. However, if additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 13-2855.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 24-26 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 794,728 (Minetti). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the present amendments and respectfully submit that pending claims 24-26 and 29-33 are not properly rejectable over the applied references for the following reasons.

Claim 24 recites that the third inner surface of a combined cord guide and cord lock is configured to engage at least one lift cord of the temporary window covering disposed therein to support the weight of the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the pleated cover. Applicants respectfully submit that the newly-applied Minetti reference fails to disclose or suggest an inner surface of the clothes line fastener configured to retentively engage the rope 9 to support a weight suspended from the rope 9 in the manner recited for the third inner surface. Minetti discloses a clothes line fastener having a hole 16 receiving an end of a rope 9, with the rope 9 then being wound around a pulley 11 and V-shaped grooves 13 and 17, and then secured by wrapping the rope 9 between an outer surface of the plate or side 5 and an external bent hook 20. The V-shaped grooves 13 and 17 taught by Minetti do not engage the rope 9 in a manner that would support the weight, and instead require the external hook 20 around which the rope 9 is also wrapped to support the weight. If the rope 9 is not wrapped around the hook 20, or if the hook 20 is omitted from the fastener, the rope 9 would slide out of the grooves 13 and 17 and be released from the fastener. Minetti provides no teaching or suggestion that the grooves 13 and 17 alone would retentively engage the rope 9, and the

presence and disclosed need for the external hook 20 suggest that the V-shaped grooves 13, 17 in fact do not retentively engage the rope 9. For these reasons, an inner surface of the fastener retentively engaging the rope 9 in the manner recited in claim 24 is not taught or suggested by Minetti. Because Minetti fails to disclose or suggest a third inner surface as recited in claim 24, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 24 and the claims depending therefrom are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Minetti for at least this reason, and respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejection of the claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and allowance of the currently pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application towards allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: /Scott E. Baxendale/
Scott E. Baxendale
Registration No.: 41,605
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300
Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300
Attorney for Applicants